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ing the salt industry of this country.

In addition to the improvements of salt refining, the staff of the Research Institute has also worked out valuable results regarding the industrial uses of salt. Two industrial concerns, the Pacific Alkali Works and the Po Hai Chemical Works, may be said to be the offshoots of the Research Institute in that both are makiug use of the results of its research and are developing them along commercial lines.

It should be pointed out that the supply of crude salt produced in Tangku and its neighbouring districts has always been in excess of its demand. Take Hanku for an example. Its productive capacity per year has been 4,000,000 piculs, while only one-half of it is actually sold. The sheer waste attendant upon salt production in this country is certainly astonishing. It has also been estimated that 800,000 piculs of mother liquor, an important by-product of salt have been thrown away every year without any recognition of its value. If the Research Institute could continue to work on the industrial utilization of salt, as it has already done in making possible the establishment of the two companies—the Pacific Alkali Works and the Po-Hai Chemical Works—it would not only help solve the problem of turning to good account the enormous amount of salt which would otherwise be wasted, but also confer an enormous benefit on the multitudes of salt producers throughout China by giving them livelihood.

The town of Tangku has experienced during the last thirty years several vicissitudes. The year 1898 marked the beginning of a phenomenal growth, for in that year the riverway leading from it to Tientsin was blocked by silting to such an extent that steamers of over one thousand tonnage had to lay anchor at Tangku where loading and unloading of goods were effected. The town at once found itself flourishing and prosperous, for what had been originally a mere outer port now became the only important gateway of North China. In 1900, however, came the Boxer Uprising. Being the main entrance to Tientsin and Peking,[1]

[1] Now changed to Peiping by order of the Nationalist Government.